

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 518
By Sharp

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Catherine Neely and the 1997 East Ridge High School volleyball team, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Division 1, Class 3-A state champions.

WHEREAS, started in Holyoke, Massachusetts, in 1895, the sport of volleyball has a rich tradition and has gained tremendous popularity in Tennessee, particularly in the last several years; and

WHEREAS, the excellent 1997 East Ridge High School volleyball team practiced with extraordinary diligence and dedication, fought hard, made the necessary sacrifices and won the prestigious Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Division 1, Class 3-A State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, their 1997 path to glory included the District 3, the Region 6 and the substate championships; and

WHEREAS, in semifinal action at Middle Tennessee State University's Murphy Center, East Ridge beat two-time defending state champion Sullivan South 15-11, 9-15, and 15-12; and

WHEREAS, with the crowd rocking with excitement and standing through most of the game, the Pioneers defeated powerful Brentwood, state runners-up, for four consecutive seasons, 3-15, 16-14, and 19-7, in the title match. Seasoned observers said that this was the most dramatic championship match since the sport was sanctioned by the TSSAA in 1976; and

800000000

80000000

011206

01120626

WHEREAS, this memorable team finished their banner season with an enviable 53-9 record, a winning percentage of .850; and

WHEREAS, in addition to winning the state championship, the senior members of the team also compiled a lengthy list of very significant accomplishments, including two Final Four appearances, three substate appearances, two regional titles, one regional runner-up, three district championships and one district runner-up; and

WHEREAS, these talented athletes compiled an admirable 178-64 four-year record; and

WHEREAS, East Ridge has been expertly coached by Catherine Neely, the winningest high school volleyball coach in Tennessee history, and her capable Assistant Coach Diana Brock; and

WHEREAS, the team leaders were: senior Beth Alexander, State Tournament Most Valuable Player, Sportswriter's All-State First Team, All-Region, Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association District Player of the Year, All-District, and All-City Super Team; senior Paige Cochrane, Sportswriter's All-State Team, All-Region, All-District, and All-City Super Team; senior Alicia Scott, Sportswriter's All-State Second Team, All-State Tournament Team, All-Region, All-District and All-City Super Team; senior Dana Reed, Sportswriter's All-State Second Team, All-Region, All-District and All-City Super Team; and senior Holly Speiser, All-State Tournament, All-Region, All-District and All-City Super team; and

WHEREAS, the other members of the team were: senior, Jennifer Phillips; juniors, Angela Brewer, Stacey Broome, Holly Hamilton, Cynthia Polk, and Ashley Sherman; and freshman, Heidi Hamilton, each of whom made a significant contribution to the success of the team; and

WHEREAS, the East Ridge Beta Club awarded athletic scholarships to each of the seniors: Beth Alexander, University of Tennessee Chattanooga; Paige Cochrane, University of Mississippi; Jennifer Phillips, Chattanooga State Community College; Dana Reed, University of Tennessee Chattanooga; Alicia Scott, Middle Tennessee State University and Holly Speiser, Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, Principal Edward M. Foster has strongly supported the team; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working managers were: Lisa Helton and Jessica Stephenson; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to recognize this exceptional team of purpose and accomplishment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Catherine Neely and the 1997 East Ridge High School volleyball team and wish them much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person mentioned above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.